

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: September 16, 2004

Contact: Ernie Seneca
Phone: 919/733-5612

STATE HOSTING FIRST DIVERSITY ENLIGHTENMENT CONFERENCE SEPT. 23

RALEIGH – North Carolina is hosting its first Diversity Enlightenment Conference next Thursday, Sept. 23, to celebrate strides in workforce diversity and promote best practices for state, local and municipal governments to make their organizations more inclusive.

“Today’s workforce is highly diverse and skilled, and our leaders need the know-how and tools to make the best use possible of this talented pool,” Gov. Mike Easley said. “The Diversity Enlightenment Conference offers key training, discussion and analysis for public sector managers to make their organizations inclusive for all.”

The event will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Raleigh Convention and Conference Center Complex, 500 Fayetteville St. Mall. Register online at www.osp.state.nc.us/news/diversity.pdf.

Centered on the theme, “Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow,” the conference will feature an opening address by Dr. Johnnetta Cole, president of Bennett College, and a keynote luncheon address by best-selling author and educator Stedman Graham entitled, “Leaders, Not Labels.” National and internationally renowned experts including Lenora Billings Harris and Roger Herman will conduct interactive concurrent workshops throughout the day.

The N.C. Office of State Personnel and the departments of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Correction, Health and Human Services and Transportation are conference sponsors.

For more information contact Geneva Langston, Office of State Personnel, at (919) 733-0853 or e-mail her at Geneva.Langston@ncmail.net.

###